

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEINBERGER VISIT: MEETING WITH ACTING

MINISTER OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION

AND TECHNOLOGY ZDZISLAW KACZMAREK,

10:45 A.M., AUGUST 29, 1973.

PASS HEW FOR DR. AUSTIN

1. THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED BY SECRETARY WEINBERGER. PARTICIPANTS IN THIS FORTH-FIVE MINUTE MEETING WERE ACTING MINISTER OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY ZDZISLAW KACZMAREK; VICE MINISTER FOR SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY LESZEK KASPRZYK; ROMAN WOJNICKI, POLISH SCIENCE ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON; DR. JOZEF GREUDA, VICE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE; LYDIA RETKOWSKI- OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE, WHO INTERPRETED; SECRETARY WEINBERGER; AMBASSADOR DAVIES; DR. GRANVILLE W. AUSTIN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS; WILLIAM H. TAFT IV, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY; ALLEN S. GREENBERG, SCIENCE ATTACHE; AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALEXANDER WIECHOWSKI, EMBASSY INTERPRETER.

2. AFTER A WELCOMING STATEMENT, MINISTER KACZMAREK REVIEWED THE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY. THE MINISTRY WAS CREATED IN 1972 WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORMULATING NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC POLICY AND ADMINISTERING KEY RESEARCH PROGRAMS DIRECTLY FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE MINISTRY OVERSEES SOME 50 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING UNIVERSITIES, AND ADVANCE TEACHERS, AGRICULTURAL, MEDICAL AND FINE ART SCHOOLS. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 110 STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION PER 10,000 POPULATION, WHICH IS ABOUT AVERAGE FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS, OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN POLAND IS SATISFACTORY. A MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEM IS TO RAISE THE GENERAL LEVEL OF THE EDUCATION PROVIDED. MOST STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION NOW GRADUATE WITH MASTER OF SCIENCE DIPLOMAS; BACHELOR DEGREES ARE GRADUALLY BEING PHASED OUT. APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT OF STUDENTS WITH MASTER'S DEGREES GO ON TO OBTAIN PHD'S. POLAND DISTINGUISHES TWO TYPES OF ADVANCED DEGREES: THE PHD AND "HABILITATED DOCTOR", EQUIVALENT TO THE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LEVEL IN THE US. IT IS EXPECTED THAT 3,000 NEW PHD'S WILL BE OBTAINED IN THE 1973/74 SCHOOL YEAR.

4. SCHOOLS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ARE ESTABLISHED UNDER REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE. AN EXCEPTION ARE FIRST LEVEL MEDICAL SCHOOLS WHICH ARE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE. SOME OF THESE INSTITUTIONS HAVE RESEARCH CONTRACTS WITH INDUSTRY, BUT THE BASIC FINANCING IS PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY. THE MINISTRY HAS SOLE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE CURRICULA, AND NOMINATE RECTORS AND PROFESSORS. THE TITLE OF PROFESSOR IS CONFERRED BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE, AND IS INDEPENDENT OF WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL SO DESIGNATED IS OCCUPYING THE POSITION OF PROFESSOR.

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5. RESEARCH SUPPORTED BY THE STATE AND INDUSTRY ACCOUNTS FOR APPROXIMATELY 2.5 PERCENT OF POLAND'S NATIONAL INCOME. THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTLY CONTROLS ABOUT ONE QUARTER OF THIS TOTAL, AND EXERCISES AN INFLUENCE ON THE REMAINDER THROUGH THE PROMULGATION OF NATIONAL SCIENCE PLANS, POLICIES AND LEGISLATION. THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTRY INCLUDE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN BUYING AND SELLING OF LICENSES AND PATENTS, AND GUEST SCIENTIFIC WORKER PROGRAMS,

6. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN

FINANCED IN GREAT PART THROUGH PL-480 PROGRAMS, THE MINISTRY IS GREATLY PLEASED THAT US-POLISH COOPERATION HAS EXPANDED RAPIDLY INTO SUCH NEW AREAS AS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS TO INSURE THAT COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE ONCE THE PL-480 FUNDS HAVE BEEN EXPENDED.

7. THE SECRETARY ASKED ABOUT COORDINATION OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH CONTRACTS WITH NATIONAL RESEARCH PLANS. MINISTER KACZMAREK RESPONDED THAT INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES ARE ENTITLED TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS REGARDING THEIR LEVEL OF SPENDING FOR RESEARCH. INDUSTRY CAN MAKE CONTRACTS DIRECTLY WITH RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS, WITHOUT CLEARANCE BY THE MINISTRY. THERE IS ALSO A SPECIAL FUND FOR PROGRESS IN TECHNOLOGY FOR EACH INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WHICH CAN BE USED TO FINANCE CONTRACT RESEARCH. THE SIZE OF THE FUND DEPEND UPON THE GROWTH OF PRODUCTION WITHIN THE INDUSTRY; THEREFORE, THE MORE DYNAMIC INDUSTRIES HAVE A GREATER POTENTIAL TO FINANCE RESEARCH. AMBASSADOR DAVIES ASKED IF THE SITUATION MIGHT ARISE WHEREIN INDUSTRY AND THAT STATE MIGHT BE COMPETING FOR THE SERVICES OF THE SAME RESEARCH FACILITY. IN THIS CASE, HOW WOULD THE RESEARCH RESOURCES BE ALLOCATED? MINISTER KACZMAREK REPLIED THAT THIS SITUATION IS NOT LIKELY TO ARISE. NATIONAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED ON A FIVE YEAR BASIS AND ANY POTENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DETECTED EARLY AND A REMEDY FOUND.

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8. THE SECRETARY REFERRED TO THE RAPID DEPLETION OF PL-480 FUNDS IN POLAND AND THE NECESSITY TO DEVISE ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF FINANCING TO INSURE CONTINUED COOPERATION. THE CREATION OF A BINATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND IS ONE SUCH POSSIBILITY. A DOCUMENT WAS PRESENTED TO POLISH SCIENCE ATTACHE WOJNICKI LAST JUNE IN WASHINGTON, WHICH SUGGESTS THE ADAPTATION TO POLAND OF THE RECENTLY CREATED US-YUGOSLAVIA BINATIONAL FUND. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THE OVERALL COOPERATION WITH POLAND BE BASED ON SOME ORDERING OF PRIORITIES, SUCH AS EXISTS IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND DHEW. MINISTER KACZMAREK AGREED THAT THE FUNDING PROBLEM REQUIRES URGENT CONSIDERATION. IT IS HOPED THAT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR A HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF US AND POLISH REPRESENTATIVES CAN TAKE PLACE TO WORK OUT A MORE SOLID

BASIS FOR FUNDING. HOWEVER, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, IT APPEARS THAT THE LISTING OF PRIORITY AREAS MIGHT TEND TO LIMIT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION. THE SECRETARY STATED THAT, IF A BINATIONAL FUND WERE CREATED,

THE VOLUME OF COOPERATION FINANCED IN THIS MANNER WOULD DEPEND UPON THE SIZE OF THE FUND AND THE INTEREST RATE OBTAINED. HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL COOPERATION COULD BE ENCOURAGED BY FOSTERING DIRECT INSTITUTION-TO-INSTITUTION RELATIONSHIPS, WHERE COSTS WOULD BE BORNE BY THE INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED. MINISTER KACZMAREK SAID THAT THE FINANCING PROBLEM IS NOW UNDER DISCUSSION WITHIN HIS MINISTRY, AND SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS THAT EVOLVE WILL BE TRANSMITTED EITHER THROUGH THE EMBASSY IN WARSAW OR THE POLISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

9. THE SECRETARY RETURNED TO THE QUESTION OF NATIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATION, NOTING, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE LARGE RESEARCH PROGRAMS OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAVE ON OCCASION OVERLAPPED AND COMPETED. MINISTER KACZMAREK RESPONDED THAT THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM IN POLAND. THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY HAD DIRECT CONTROL OVER KEY RESEARCH TASKS, AND IS KEPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CURRENTLY INFUSED OF THEIR RESEARCH PLAN AND REQUIREMENT OF THE OTHER MINISTRIES. CONFLICTS BETWEEN MINISTRIES CAN THEREBY BE ANTICIPATED AND AVOIDED.

10. THE SECRETARY REFERRED TO THE PROBLEM OF MATCHING THE SUPPLY OF TRAINED INDIVIDUALS TO THE LABOR MARKET. FOR EXAMPLE, THE US NOW HAS AN OVERSUPPLY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND GRADUATES FROM TEACHERS' COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN TEACHING POSITIONS. HOW DOES POLAND DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM? MINISTER KACZMAREK STATED THAT THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF ENROLLMENT IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ARE STRICTLY CONTROLLED IN RELATION TO ANTICIPATED NEEDS. THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED EACH YEAR TO MEDICAL SCHOOLS, FOR EXAMPLE, DEPENDS UPON THE PROJECTED DEMANDS FOR PHYSICIANS SUPPLIED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE. THERE ARE CURRENTLY TWO CANDIDATES FOR EVERY OPENING IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS; SELECTION IS MADE BY COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.
DAVIES

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